



Testimony In Support Of HB 172  
Union Dues and Expenses to Support Collective Bargaining  
January 18, 2022

To: Hon. Vanessa Atterbeary, Chair, and  
members of the House Economic Matters  
Committee

From: Mr. Courtney Jenkins, President-  
Coalition of Black Trade Unionists -  
Baltimore Chapter

Dear Chairwoman Atterbeary and Distinguished Members of the House Ways and Means  
Committee:

On behalf of the members of the Coalition of Black Trade Unionists (CBTU), Baltimore Chapter, I  
write in support of HB 172, Union Dues and Expenses to Support Collective Bargaining.

The impact of dues deductions extends far beyond the workplaces of our hardworking  
membership and into the same communities and neighborhoods that they make up. While the  
ability to collect dues increases the power of labor unions to help advocate for working families  
through collective bargaining– it also affords labor union membership the ability to participate  
in meaningful community engagement. Whether it be a winter supply drive organized by CBTU  
Baltimore for those with housing insecurity– or apprenticeship readiness programs that  
connect citizens with worthwhile employment opportunities such as the program conducted by  
the Metropolitan Baltimore AFL-CIO Council. Dues paying members help fund these very  
important community outreach and philanthropic efforts.

While many charitable organizations provide mechanisms to attain tax deductions from  
donations, we view the deduction of dues in a similar fashion. HB 172 helps accomplish this  
goal at the state level. This critical piece of legislation also thwarts the ability for companies to  
write off expenses associated with union busting tactics in the workplace. There should never  
be a monetary incentive for any entity that spends money to support the race to the bottom.

As proud black trade unionists, we know firsthand the power of organized labor. Legislation that inhibits the ability for employers to receive deductions for union busting is good for all working families of our great state.

For the above reasons, the members of the CBTU Baltimore Chapter strongly support HB 172 and urge the committee to vote favorably on this bill.

In Solidarity,

Courtney Jenkins, President